



EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT

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Committee on Development

2012/2273(INI)

4.6.2013

OPINION

of the Committee on Development

for the Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality

on Gendercide: the missing women?
(2012/2273(INI))

Rapporteur: Corina Crețu

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SUGGESTIONS

The Committee on Development calls on the Committee for Women's Rights and Gender Equality, as the committee responsible, to incorporate the following suggestions into its motion for a resolution:

1. Notes with deep concern the distorted sex ratios in various parts of the world, especially in China and India, where preference for sons, and the resulting gendercide, has resulted in almost 200 million 'missing' women¹;
2. Points out that eradicating sex-selective practices is a complex process which requires a range of inter-connected approaches and methods, from studying the root causes and cultural and socio-economic factors characteristic of countries where son/male preference exists, to campaigning for the rights and status of girls and women, and introducing laws and regulations; more broadly, deems that the only sustainable way to prevent further developments in sex-selective practices is by promoting equal value of the sexes in every society;
3. Recalls that promoting gender equality and empowering women is one of the MDGs (millennium development goals) and stresses that sex-selective abortion is a threat to achieving this goal;
4. Stresses that, according to several studies, the gender imbalance could lead to increases in trafficking for the purposes of marriage or sexual exploitation, violence against women, child, early and forced marriages, and HIV/AIDS and other sexually transmitted diseases (STDs), thereby posing a threat to societal stability and security; calls, therefore, for in-depth reviews of the possible health, economic and security consequences of this spiralling male surplus;
5. Calls on the governments of partner countries to reduce health care costs for the treatment of children, notably girls, who sometimes die as a result of the bad or inadequate care they receive;
6. Points out that the failure to empower women and girls, as well as the absence of efforts to change social norms and structures has serious legal, ethical, health and human rights implications and potentially serious longer-term consequences, damaging to the societies where they are being practiced;
7. Calls for the EU to include a strong gender component and a focus on the empowerment of women in all its partnerships and dialogues with developing countries, as stated in the European Consensus on Development; considers, furthermore, that there is a need for gender mainstreaming in all stages of budget support, *inter alia*, by promoting dialogue with women's associations in developing countries and by introducing gender-differentiated indicators; highlights the fact that the improvement of levels of education, employment opportunities and integrated health care services, including sexual and reproductive health care services for women is vitally important in seeking to eradicate

¹ United Nations Fact Sheet: International Women's Day 2007, available at <http://www.un.org/events/women/iwd/2007/factsfigures.shtml>

sex-selective practices – from abortion to infanticide – and to achieve overall economic growth in developing countries and reduce poverty; underlines that the empowerment of women and the involvement of men are key to fighting gender inequality and to promoting the behavioural and social change needed to eradicate sex-selective practices in the long term;

8. Emphasises that efforts to limit sex selection must not hamper or limit the right of women to have access to legitimate sexual and reproductive health technologies and services;
9. Stresses the importance of drafting legislation against sex selection, which should include social protection packages for women, better monitoring of the implementation of the existing legislation, and a stronger focus on the cultural and socio-economic causes of the phenomenon, in order to tackle the issue in a sustainable and holistic way, upholding gender equality and encouraging active participation from civil society;
10. Calls for the EU and its partner countries to improve, through development cooperation, the monitoring and data collection of sex ratios at birth, and to take prompt action to address possible imbalances; calls, in this connection, for closer cooperation between the EU, UN agencies and other international partners and partner governments;
11. Emphasises that any legal or political efforts to manage or limit sex selection must also protect the right of women to have access to sexual and reproductive health technologies and services, without the need for spousal authorisation;
12. Calls on the governments of partner countries to combat gendercide by establishing realistic policies promoting women and their role in civil society and by encouraging female education, and to fight against the discrimination of women, notably in the employment sector;
13. Calls on the governments of partner countries to cooperate at an international level to fight fraud, corruption, and the trafficking of women;
14. Calls for detailed analysis of the underlying financial and economic reasons that contribute to sex-selective practices; furthermore, calls on governments to actively address burdens that can be placed on families and therefore lead to the phenomenon of a male surplus;
15. Calls on the EU, international organisations, national governments, and other relevant parties to work together to ensure access to inclusive social protection, particularly in the form of pension, health, or crop insurance for those in developing countries, in order to provide greater economic protection to all individuals and to reduce the preference for males;
16. Calls on countries benefiting from development aid, particularly those where gendercide is a major problem, to commit to the eradication of gendercide.

RESULT OF FINAL VOTE IN COMMITTEE

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| Date adopted | 28.5.2013 |
| Result of final vote | +: 21 -: 0 0: 1 |
| Members present for the final vote | Thijs Berman, Corina Crețu, Véronique De Keyser, Charles Goerens, Mikael Gustafsson, Eva Joly, Filip Kaczmarek, Miguel Angel Martínez Martínez, Gay Mitchell, Bill Newton Dunn, Andreas Pitsillides, Maurice Ponga, Jean Roatta, Alf Svensson, Keith Taylor, Ivo Vajgl, Anna Záborská, Iva Zanicchi |
| Substitute(s) present for the final vote | Kriton Arsenis, Philippe Boulland, Emer Costello, Isabella Lövin |